

12-19-1979

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### Recommended Citation

"UD Art Professor Shows Work in Paris" (1979). *News Releases*. 8329.  
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university of dayton

# news release

## UD ART PROFESSOR SHOWS WORK IN PARIS

DAYTON, Ohio, December 19, 1979 --- University of Dayton art professor Gordon R. Richardson will celebrate the new year in Paris, France by featuring 25 pieces of his work in the Galerie Herouet there. His show opens January 2.

The Galerie Herouet exhibits the work of two artists each month. Richardson's show will run through January 15.

So how does a Dayton professor-artist secure a spot for his art in a Paris museum? Richardson explains that it all began two years ago when he made the acquaintance of a Paris critic who was impressed enough with a portfolio of the UD artist's work that he began planning a separate showing of it. Details were arranged last May. The segment of Richardson's art that will be exhibited--all executed in the last five years--is entitled "After Stonehenge," which translates to the French as "Après Stonehenge."

The January exhibit is a series of watercolors that have never before appeared as a group. Richardson drew inspiration for this art from landscapes of specific geographic sites in the United States and Europe: the Stonehenge in England, Carnac in Brittany, the Serpent Mound in Ohio. His paintings reflect his attempt to interpret these prehistoric designs.

Richardson describes his fascination with land forms: "The topography of the land, its patterns, color and contours are extremely important to me visually. Sometimes I actually incorporate fragments of found-objects onto the surface of my composition."

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The length of Richardson's love affair with land formations can be measured by the some 50 pieces of art he has produced on the theme. The UD artist works by series, he says, as a way to keep the art fresh. A series such as "Stonehenge" usually lasts six months to a year. Following "Stonehenge," there was "Sundisk" (shapes resembling an Indian shield, probably a spin-off of Stonehenge), then "Serpent," then "Cape Hatteras." Seeing one land form conjures up for the artist other land forms before it. Richardson says that following his 1974 visit to the ruins of Stonehenge in England, his "images began to form a totem-like theme, describing feelings rather than actual details of other earth sites, such as Serpent Mound in Ohio, the rows of monoliths of Carnac in Brittany, the angled land pattern of Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, the gentle curves of the dunes on Cumberland Island in Georgia, and others."

For the January exhibit, the Paris critic selected pieces from each of Richardson's series, hence the title "After Stonehenge." That theme, interprets the Dayton artist, "is a wedding of the prehistoric with the contemporary."

Richardson was graduated from the Dayton Art Institute school in 1964, spent 5 years teaching art in high schools, then took his master of fine arts in printmaking at Pratt Institute. He has exhibited in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New York City. Some of his pieces have been part of the DAI Circulating Gallery.